

## **Legal Assistance at Torii Station**

### **By Rudy Wartella**

The Torii Station Legal Assistance Office offers free legal services to all Military ID cardholders. We provide walk-in power of attorney and notary service. An attorney is available to discuss personal legal assistance issues and one can normally see an attorney within one or two days of request. Emergency clients receive same-day service.

The Torii Legal Assistance Office does more than just powers of attorney. We provide assistance in several useful areas: Citizenship, Name Changes, Adoption, Family Law Matters, Military Administrative Matters, Economics, Consumer Protection, Real Property, Taxes, and Estate Planning. If help is needed on any personal legal matter, the Torii legal assistance office is available to help. We have an informative internet site at <http://www.usagts.jp.pac.army.mil/sites/installation/legal.asp> with several preventive law articles, handouts, and forms to make many routine legal services even more convenient.

For those with legal concerns, it is important to not delay seeking legal assistance. If a notice to appear in court is received, an attorney should be seen right away. Most legal issues only become problems when neglected. In most cases, the sooner an attorney is consulted on an issue, the better.

There are some limitations on our legal assistance services. We may not advise clients with employment law cases, claims against the U.S. Government, or military criminal cases. For help in those areas, a private attorney should be consulted (we can help find one), or in military justice cases, a trial defense attorney. The Army on Okinawa now has a full-time Trial Defense Attorney on Okinawa. Soldiers that have been read their Article 31 Rights; are facing an Article 15, Separation Action, or a court-martial; or otherwise have a need to see a Trial Defense attorney should call SGT Hill at 644-5699 to make an appointment to see CPT Gapasin (the Trial Defense Attorney).

The Torii Station Legal Assistance Office is open Monday through Friday. We are located in Room 219, Building 218 (across the street from the Post Office). Please call 644-4332 if an appointment is needed to speak to a legal assistance attorney.

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